REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 15-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended for clarity and to even further distinguish over the applied references, claims 7 and 18 are amended for clarity, and claim 20 is added. Support for the amendments to claim 1 and new claim 20 can be found in the specification, for example, at page 22, line 3 - page 27, line 18. No new matter is added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 6, 7 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Margalit et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,763,399) in view of Tomita et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0035124). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Margalit and Tomita, alone or combined, do not teach and would not have rendered obvious "wherein the function implementing unit ... without recognizing instruction data, allows the external personal computer to store the instruction data in the storing unit," as recited in independent claim 1.

The Office Action acknowledges that Margalit does not teach the claimed function implementing unit that automatically reads the instruction data, but relies on paragraph [0100] of Tomita for disclosure of the above feature (see page 4 of the Office Action).

The cited portion of Tomita merely relates to a copy job that is registered, as an unexecuted copy job, into a job management table 211 by a print controller 12 (see paragraph [0100] of Tomita). In registering the copy job, the print controller must recognize the contents of the copy job to define it within the job management table 211 for deferred execution. Therefore, Tomita does not teach a function implementing unit that allows an external personal computer to store the instruction data in the storing unit without recognizing the instruction data, as recited in independent claim 1.

For at least these reasons, independent claim 1 is patentable over Margalit and Tomita. Claims 6, 7 and 19, which depend from independent claim 1, are also patentable over the

cited references for at least their dependency on independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicant thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Further, Margalit and Tomita do not teach the features of new claim 20. New claim 20 recites "wherein the function implementing unit <u>first recognizes the instruction data when the function implementing unit reads the stored instruction data</u> via the interface after storing the stored instruction data" (emphasis added). As discussed above, Margalit is silent regarding the claimed function implementing unit; and Tomita merely relates to a device that recognizes the alleged instruction data <u>when the instruction data is stored</u>. Therefore, Tomita does not teach a function implementing unit that recognizes the instruction data <u>when the function implementing unit reads the stored instruction data after storing the stored instruction data</u>, as recited in claim 20. Claim 20 thus further defines over the cited references.
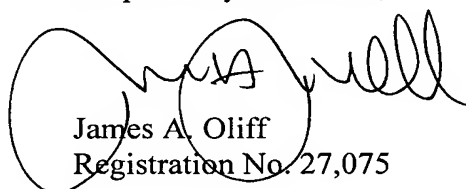
The Office Action rejects claims 2, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Margalit in view of Tomita and further in view of Yoneta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,359,699); rejects claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Margalit in view of Tomita and further in view of Murata (U.S. Patent No. 6,111,659); and rejects claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Margalit in view of Tomita and further in view of Yoneta and Murata. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 2-5 and 15-18 depend from independent claim 1, which is in condition for allowance. Therefore, claims 2-5 and 15-18 are also patentable for at least their dependency on independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicant thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:PTM/mcp

Date: December 18, 2009

Attached:
    Petition for Extension of Time
    Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

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